

the Senate bill from the desk, substitute the House language, ask for a conference, move to go to conference, and then you will have in order your motion to instruct conferees. To that extent, the bill will come before us, but only to that extent. In other words, the budget that was passed by the House, we will take the Senate bill from the floor, substitute the House language.

The reason we need a rule, frankly, is we asked unanimous consent to do that procedure, a unanimous consent which we had given to you in 2003 and 2005. For whatever reasons, it was not your personal determination, but it was the determination of your side not to give unanimous consent for that purpose. Therefore, in order to effect that objective, we need to pass a rule to allow us to do that which is what we will do Monday night.

Mr. BLUNT. I would say to the gentleman, there may be a technicality that neither of us understand; I am sure I don't. But I thought there was a technical problem with the budget passed that made it a different situation than the budgets we had passed in the past, and that the clearest way to take care of that procedural mistake was actually to deal with the bill on the floor.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. BLUNT. I would.

Mr. HOYER. That is not my understanding. Now the gentleman may have more information than I have, but if that is the fact, I don't have that information. At this point in time, I was not aware of any such problem.

The only problem I was aware of, as I informed the gentleman, we can either do this by asking for unanimous consent to effect the process of taking the Senate bill, substituting the House bill, and then requesting the conference and appointing conferees by unanimous consent. Or, failing to get unanimous consent, we have to do that by rule. We did not get unanimous consent. The Rules Committee met today. We will consider that rule and the bill itself on Monday late afternoon, early evening.

Mr. BLUNT. I would also ask the gentleman, and then we go to conference on the budget after taking what will be a separate vote on the budget?

Mr. HOYER. Yes.

Mr. BLUNT. And all of that would happen on Monday?

Mr. HOYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for clarifying that for me.

On one other topic that may be coming up soon, the whole question of lobbying reform, I have heard that may also be coming up in the near future. Do you have a sense when a lobbying reform bill might be scheduled for the floor?

Mr. HOYER. It will not be this coming week. That is being worked on. We want to make sure that it is a bill which accurately reflects reform and is

workable. That is what we are trying to achieve.

Mr. BLUNT. Is it the gentleman's view that bill will go through a committee process or will it be coming directly to the floor?

Mr. HOYER. It is my view it will go through a committee process. The Judiciary Committee is considering it. Mr. CONYERS' committee is considering it.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

My only other topic, Members, of course get very sentimental about their mothers near Mother's Day, and their wives near Mother's Day. Next Friday, I am hoping we will have an effort to ensure that Members are home for that weekend, and they are, too. We intend to vote Friday. Does the gentleman have a sense yet what the actual Friday schedule might look like in terms of a time away from here on Friday?

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield, if we have the full cooperation of all those people who have mothers or had mothers, we can accomplish that objective.

Having said that, as you know, I announced we have Friday scheduled as a day for us to do our business. Now if we were extraordinarily fortunate and got our business done by Thursday, or frankly could conclude it late Thursday night, perhaps we would be able to do that. But I do not anticipate that. I know as many Members on my side of the aisle, I want to assure the gentleman, have talked to me, as I am sure Members on your side of the aisle have talked to you about that, and if we can accommodate them, we will. But you heard the schedule. It is a pretty full schedule with a lot of substantive legislation. We have the intelligence authorization and other bills. It is my expectation that we will be in on Friday. But it is also my intent to make every effort to make Friday as short a day as we possibly can. As you know, our objective is no later than 2 p.m.; but if we could do earlier, 12:30, before 1, to accommodate Members and their flights, we certainly would like to do that. I would certainly welcome your help in accomplishing that objective.

Mr. BLUNT. That would be good for our Members to get that done.

One other thing that I would like to bring up, and I know how difficult it is to schedule the floor. Believe me, I know the concerns and criticisms that come from that.

When we were visiting a week ago, I expressed a specific request that as soon as we had an idea when the votes were going to be on Tuesday, we would have more general knowledge of that. At that time, my good friend thought we would vote early afternoon on Tuesday. As it turned out, we didn't actually start the session until noon on Tuesday.

Mr. HOYER. Right.

Mr. BLUNT. That information to our Members a little earlier would have

prevented travel on Monday for people that could have easily gotten here by the time of the Tuesday vote. It is still early in this Congress. I am really not saying that in a way that is critical at all, but at the time, we did ask for whatever knowledge the majority had as soon as possible so we wouldn't run into exactly the situation we did, people getting here thinking there could be votes at 12, only to find out we didn't start any of the work of the House until 12. Whatever it takes to work more closely on that, I am more than happy to try to do so we can get information out. But we can't get it out unless we have it.

I was disappointed we didn't get a little more notice on the time we were going to start work on Tuesday, which would have made it clear we would not be having votes at the time we started.

Mr. HOYER. Let me say, I agree with the gentleman. I was not pleased myself that we did not give more notice to Members. As you pointed out, we had votes very late in the day.

I take full responsibility because I think we may have been able to get, certainly early Tuesday at the latest, information to Members. We probably should have done that.

As you know, the issue was the veto, when it was going to go down there and when it was going to come back. That was not decided until late.

But I think the gentleman's criticism is a constructive criticism, and I take responsibility. We should have done that, in my opinion. I was not pleased, frankly, with myself or with the notice our office gave because we do want to give Members as accurate information as we possibly can. And, frankly, we want to give them as timely information as we can so they can accomplish what you have said, make their schedules comport with what we are actually doing. To the extent that did not happen this time, I will try to prevent it from happening a second time.

Mr. BLUNT. Well, I thank my friend for the spirit of your response. If there is any way we can help you in getting that information to Members more quickly, please call on us to do that.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.